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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CA-02	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DS-00	EAP-01	EUR-01	FDRE-01	H-01	IMMC-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-14	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MFLO-03
	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	SNIS-00
	NISC-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00	/051W	

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 01791

DEPARTMENT FOR AF, EUR/UBI, AF/C AND AF/RA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, NL, BE, RW

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO NETHERLANDS TO GUIDE RWANDAN POLITICAL
RECONCILIATION PROCESS

REF: A) STATE 31464 B) DUBROW/FRIEDMAN TELCON 2/10
C) DUBROW/BROCKING TELCON 2/10 D) DUBROW/GRANVILLE
TELCON 2/10

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT. THIS IS ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE
SEE PARA. 6.
2. POST READ WITH INTEREST REFTEL PROPOSING TO THE
NETHERLANDS THAT IT GUIDE THE RWANDAN POLITICAL
RECONCILIATION. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE APPROACH TO
THE DUTCH HAS BEEN VERY QUIETLY UNDERTAKEN AND THAT WE
HAVE NOT TALKED TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE MATTER.
WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT THE BELGIAN
GOVERNMENT BE INFORMED ABOUT OUR APPROACH TO THE
NETHERLANDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND CERTAINLY BEFORE THE
FEB. 16 WASHINGTON ROUNDTABLE WITH FONMIN VANDENBROUCKE.
3. WHILE WE DO NOT DISAGREE WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT
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NEITHER THE FRENCH NOR THE BELGIANS ARE LIKELY CANDIDATES
TO GUIDE THE RECONCILIATION EFFORT, WE NOTE THAT DURING
AMB. FRIEDMAN'S VISIT TO BELGIUM IN JANUARY, MFA DIRECTOR
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS FRANS VAN DAELE BRIEFED US ON THE
BELGIAN APPROACH TO THE OAU. GIVEN THE VERY CLOSE
CONSULTATIONS WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN WITH BELGIUM ON THE
ENTIRE RANGE OF CENTRAL AFRICAN ISSUES IN THE PAST FOUR
AND HALF YEARS, OUR PARALLEL APPROACH TO THE NETHERLANDS,
WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS, COULD BE SEEN BY BELGIUM AS
UNDERCUTTING ITS OWN APPROACH TO THE OAU WHICH IT HAD

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FULLY DESCRIBED TO US.

4. COMMENT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FONMIN VANDENBROUCKE OR HIS ADVISORS WILL OPPOSE, A PRIORI, THE IDEA OF ENGAGING THE DUTCH OR SOME OTHER SUITABLE INTERLOCUTOR TO HELP ACHIEVE POLITICAL RECONCILIATION. BELGIUM DOES WANT TO PLACE ITS AFRICAN POLICY IN A LARGER EUROPEAN CONTEXT BUT MIGHT SUGGEST SOMEONE FARTHER REMOVED, BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY, AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

5. THE GOB RELEASED TODAY, FEB. 10, ITS AFRICA POLICY PAPER. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE AND PRESS COVERAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AFRICA POLICY HAS ALREADY TURNED CANTANKEROUS. SHOULD OUR APPROACH TO THE NETHERLANDS BECOME KNOWN, IT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY SOME IN THE MEDIA AND IN VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES AS A LACK OF SUPPORT FOR GOB EFFORTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA. A HEADS UP TO THE MFA WILL MAINTAIN THE PATTERN OF CONSULTATIONS AND WILL GIVE FONMIN VANDENBROUCKE'S TEAM A CHANCE TO PREPARE AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE, SHOULD THE ISSUE COME UP.

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6. ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE AUTHORIZE POST TO INFORM MFA OF APPROACH MADE TO NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT.

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